

BY WIRE

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December 4, 1969

TO: SECRETARY ROGERS
FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER

This is a brief message to keep you informed of events here in your absence.

Yesterday, French Ambassador Lucet visited me to ask if the President would consider an invitation to attend a dinner at the French Embassy during President Pompidou's visit. I informed him that this would be highly unlikely.

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Lucet then asked if we intend to appoint a replacement for Lodge quickly and I replied that we would do so at an appropriate time. I also informed Lucet that the President had instructed me to tell him that what you would tell the French Foreign Minister about the French role in Vietnam had the President's full backing. I continued, the U.S. Government did not welcome efforts designed to replace the Thieu regime or to encourage Tran van Don in this direction. The President recognized that France was a sovereign government and entitled to take whatever actions they cared to with respect to Vietnam. Nevertheless, he wanted it clearly understood that we intended to support the present government. I also advised Lucet that you would elaborate in greater detail on this matter.

State Dept. review completed

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